



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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April 14, 2004

### TWO PLEAD GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO POSSESS WITH THE INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE COCAINE AND ECSTASY

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Vuong Nguyen**, 25, Kansas City, Missouri, and **Vuthy Chap**, 23, Kansas City, Missouri, each entered a guilty plea on April 13, 2004, before U.S. District Judge Kathryn H. Vratil. Nguyen entered a guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine and ecstasy and one count of distributing ecstasy within 1,000 feet of Johnson County Community College. Chap entered a guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine and ecstasy and one count of distributing cocaine within 100 feet of a video arcade.

Melgren said that Nguyen admitted at his plea that between March 21, 2003, and May 9, 2003, he sold ecstasy and cocaine to an undercover officer on seven different occasions. Nguyen further admitted that on three occasions he sold cocaine and ecstasy within 1,000 feet of Johnson County Community College.

Chap admitted at his plea that he conspired with others to distribute cocaine and ecstasy between March 21, 2003, and May 9, 2003. Chap admitted that he supplied cocaine and ecstasy to Vuong Nguyen for distribution. Chap admitted that on March 26, 2003, cocaine and ecstasy were sold to the undercover officer within 100 feet of a video arcade in Overland Park, Kansas. Chap further admitted that on May 9, 2003, he provided 499 tablets of ecstasy to Vuong Nguyen for sale to the undercover officer.

Vuong Nguyen and Chap each face a maximum of forty years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for July 13, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.

Co-defendant **Joseph Nguyen**, 24, Overland Park, Kansas, was sentenced on April 5, 2004, to 30 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Nguyen entered a guilty plea on January 5, 2004, to one count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and ecstasy and one count of distributing cocaine.

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Co-defendant **Brianne Daugherty**, 23, Kansas City, Missouri, entered a guilty plea on April 5, 2004, to one count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and ecstasy and one count of distributing cocaine. Daugherty faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years for conspiracy and a maximum of twenty years for distributing cocaine. Sentencing is set for June 28, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force and the Johnson County Sheriff's Office in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead in this prosecution.